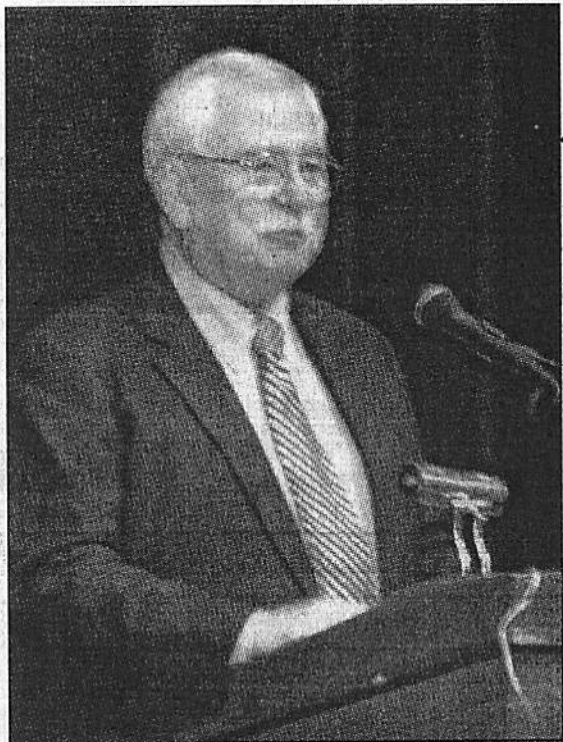


MEET THE MODERATOR



New Town Moderator Friend Weiler at the beginning of Town Meeting

Weiler reflects on first meeting

By Kathryn Koch
kkoch@wickedlocal.com

Friday, March 25, 2011 Page 1 Duxbury Reporter

How do you feel about your first time as moderator of the Town Meeting?

It was a great experience and, needless to say, a rather significant Town Meeting, with not only 49 articles but three large capital articles dealing with the fire station renovation, a new police station and the school project. There were nine CPC articles, including a citizen's petition to eliminate the 3-percent contribution. There were four citizen petitions altogether and then 10 zoning articles. The point I am trying to make was that this particular Town Meeting was loaded with content. As a first-year moderator, I had to deal with several issues such as the overflow seating section in the cafeteria, several motions for reconsideration and three rather long sessions. All in all, I'm pleased with how everything went. We got to everything, votes were taken and now we can move on to the election and see what that brings.

How do you think it went with how people voted?

Frankly, for the first time, how people voted didn't matter to me. For years—in the different roles I've had at Town Meeting—I found myself supporting one article or another or, in some cases, taking up a cause as an advocate. It felt good to focus on the process and less on issues. Votes were what they were. In some cases, they're final; some will take the upcoming election to finally decide. I can live with the results either way. I think with all that I had to contend with, it was a good Town Meeting. All voices were heard from, and voters had clear choices.

Do you have a most memorable moment or two?

Clearly during the three large capital project votes on late Saturday, having to deal with the overflow crowd in the cafeteria, running back and forth taking votes in both rooms, was exciting. The sheer length of the meeting and the content, as I mentioned before, made for a memorable experience in itself. Dealing with the numerous reconsideration votes—and as well as the Blairhaven vote—all combined to make it a meeting I won't soon forget. For more on Friend Weiler's reflections on his first Town Meeting as moderator, visit wickedlocal-duxbury.com.